(c) whether, in large number of cases, the U.S. has fully agreed with India's views; and

(d) if so, to what extent both the countries have agreed to improve their relations further in all internal and international issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) In March 2000, Prime Minister and former U.S. President Bill Clinton agreed that the two countries must chart a new and purposeful direction in their relationship. In November 2001, Prime Minister and President Bush agreed to work together to complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations.

(b) and (c) The two sides recognise that they share many common values, interests and opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation, as also many common challenges, which includes terrorism. This provides a basis for convergence of views on a number of issues.

(d) The two sides are pursuing broad-based and intensive engagement and deepening cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.

G-8 Nations' instructions to Pakistan to prevent terrorism

1689. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Eight Nations urged Pakistan to prevent terrorists operating from its soil at the end of a two-day summit in the Canadian Rockies;

(b) if so, whether it was agreed in the conference that Pakistan must put a permanent stop to terrorist activity originating from territory under its control;

(c) whether Government have welcomed this move; and

(d) if so, whether all the G-8 Nations have been providing details of the terrorist activities operating even now from their soil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The above call to Pakistan is a reflection of the growing conviction of the international community that Pakistan must put a permanent end to cross-border terrorism originating from its soil.

(d) Issues relating to terrorism are discussed regularly with friendly countries, including the G-8 countries.

Illegal flights of Kazakhstan Airlines

1690. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aero of Kazakhstan made several flights into India illegally on a forged permission;

(b) if so, the details of the probe in the matter;

(c) whether other embassies are involved too; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Sir, an agency viz. M/s Sam Aviation, used to obtain permission to operate the flights of the foreign company viz. M/s GST Aero of Kazakhstan as their Indian principal. It was brought to notice of the Ministry by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 28th March, 2002 that the suspect operator under the name of M/s GST Aero was trying to approach Indian authorities on or around 22nd March, 2002 and apply for flights on behalf of the Embassy on the Embassy's forged notes verbale.

(b) The matter is still under investigation of the concerned Indian authorities.

(c) The Ministry has no information about the involvement of any Embassy in such flights.

(d) Does not arise.

Transit route from Agartala to Kolkata through Bangladesh

1691. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open transit route for goods and passengers from Agartala to Kolkata through Bangladesh; and